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authentic material, I should be glad to see it." In the Torrey herbarium at Columbia University there are several specimens from Cambridge, Mass., and vicinity, but they are all *Prunus spinosa*. Another from the same locality in the National Herbarium is a duplicate of one of the Torrey herbarium specimens. As this material dates back directly to the time of Dr. Gray, and as it comes from the stations specified by him, it seems hardly doubtful that this was what he had in hand when he included *Prunus spinosa insititia* in the Manual. This would make Gray's name a synonym of *P. spinosa* Linn.

Besides the names already mentioned Walter¹⁷ described a *Prunus insititia* which is referred to *P. angustifolia* Marsh by Sudworth.¹⁸

The case may be summed up as follows :

Prunus insititia of Linnæus and later European authors is mostly *P. DOMESTICA DAMASCENA* Linn., other groups of *P. domestica* being sometimes included.

Prunus spinosa insititia Gray is *P. SPINOSA* Linn.

Prunus insititia Walt. is *P. ANGUSTIFOLIA* Marsh.—F. A. WAUGH, *University of Vermont, Experiment Station.*

AN UNDESCRIBED BIRCH FROM ALASKA.

Betula Kenaica, n. sp.—Arborescent, 10 to 15^m high, often widely spreading: trunk 0.3 to 0.5^m in diameter, bark rough and more or less furrowed, on the younger branches dark reddish-gray or brown, not scaly or only slightly so, twigs not resin-dotted: leaves ovate, acute or acuminate, wedge-shaped at base or somewhat rounded but not cordate, irregularly and somewhat sharply toothed, the teeth appearing as if gland-tipped, smooth or nearly so on both surfaces, under side lighter in color; petioles slender, 10 to 20^{mm} commonly about 15^{mm} in length, blade 35 to 50^{mm} usually about 40^{mm} long and 30^{mm} wide: flowering catkins not seen; fruiting catkins 20 to 30^{mm} in length, oblong or nearly cylindrical, mostly erect on short peduncles; scales 2 to 4^{mm} broad and 5 or 6^{mm} long, deeply 3-lobed, the lateral lobes rounded and divergent, the central one considerably longer, acuminate, sometimes recurved, ciliate or glabrate: fruit 2 to 2.5^{mm} broad including the wings, which about equal the body, and 2 to 3^{mm} in length.

¹⁷ Fl. Carol. 146. 1788.

¹⁸ Nom. Arb. Fl. U. S. 237. 1897.

Alaska on the Kenai peninsula in the vicinity of Cook inlet and perhaps elsewhere. Numbers 492 from Sunrise at the head of Turnagain arm and 664 from Kussiloff, on the western side of the peninsula, 1897 and 1898.

This apparently very distinct birch was first noticed by me in the summer of 1897 at Sunrise, a small mining camp near the head of Turnagain arm. It was seen at other places, usually associated with *Picea Sitchensis* and what was then considered *Betula papyrifera*, but the two birches seemed quite distinct. This tree is locally known as the red or black birch, and its rough bark and nearly unlaminated younger growth quickly distinguish it from the other species. In general appearance the trunk of an old tree bears a striking resemblance to that of *Prunus serotina*. In 1898 I again visited this region and found this tree abundant at Kussiloff, about 50 miles from the mouth of Cook inlet and it was later observed elsewhere, seeming to indicate its general distribution over the Kenai peninsula, at least on its western side. The material from which this description has been drawn was compared with the collection of the National Herbarium and that of the Arnold Arboretum and was found very distinct. It was also compared with the collection at St. Petersburg and pronounced unlike any Siberian or other material in their possession. To those in charge of the above collections I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness.—WALTER H. EVANS, *Office of Experiment Stations, Dept. of Agric., Washington, D. C.*